



General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 February 2014Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 24 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

*[on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/443/Add.2)]***68/230. South-South cooperation***The General Assembly,*

Reaffirming its resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009, in which it endorsed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

Reaffirming also its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,¹

Recalling its resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 60/212 of 22 December 2005, 62/209 of 19 December 2007, 63/233 of 19 December 2008, 64/1 of 6 October 2009, 66/219 of 22 December 2011, 67/227 of 21 December 2012 and other resolutions relevant to South-South cooperation,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its seventeenth session,² the decisions taken at that session³ and the decisions taken at the intersessional meeting of 4 June 2013;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;⁴

3. *Further takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system, including its recommendations,⁵ and the related note by the Secretary-General;⁶

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August–12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A and corrigendum), chap. I.

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/67/39).*

³ *Ibid.*, chap. I.

⁴ A/68/212.

⁵ A/66/717.

⁶ A/66/717/Add.1.



4. *Recognizes* the importance and different history and particularities of South-South cooperation, and reaffirms its view of South-South cooperation as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit;

5. *Also recognizes* that South-South cooperation is a partnership among equals based on solidarity and should not be seen as official development assistance, and, in this regard, acknowledges the need to enhance the development effectiveness of South-South cooperation by continuing to increase its mutual accountability and transparency, as well as coordinating its initiatives with other development projects and programmes on the ground, in accordance with national development plans and priorities, and further recognizes that the impact of South-South cooperation should be assessed with a view to improving, as appropriate, its quality in a results-oriented manner;

6. *Encourages* the funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system to take concrete measures to effectively mainstream support to South-South and triangular cooperation in their policy and regular programming work, and in this context requests those organizations and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to leverage each other's institutional and technical capacities;

7. *Recognizes* the need to continue to mutually enrich South-South cooperation based on the diverse experiences of and good practices from South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and North-South cooperation, and to further explore complementarities and synergies between them;

8. *Invites* developing country Member States to improve the impact of South-South cooperation initiatives on sustainable development and to exchange best practices in planning, implementation, data collection and information management;

9. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of considering South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the context of the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

11. *Reaffirms* the mandate and the central role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as the focal point for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis, recalls decision 17/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation,³ and in this regard, requests the Secretary-General, noting the idea of separating the Office for South-South Cooperation as operationally autonomous from the United Nations Development Programme, to present, as part of his comprehensive report to the High-level Committee at its eighteenth session and, in consultation with Member States, the Office for South-South Cooperation and the United Nations Development Programme, a comprehensive proposal evaluating the feasibility and financial, human and budgetary implications of separating this Office, at the same time clarifying contributions of the United

Nations Development Programme under such a change, and presenting all options, including, inter alia, the continuation of all existing arrangements and financing options for the Office, including through voluntary contributions as well as core contributions from the United Nations Development Programme;

12. *Calls upon* the Office for South-South Cooperation to explore and undertake intensive, innovative and additional resource mobilization initiatives to attract more resources, both financial and in-kind, to supplement regular resources and other funds for activities involving South-South cooperation in order to enable it to respond effectively and efficiently to the South-South cooperation needs of Member States and the United Nations system;

13. *Acknowledges and encourages* the initiatives and arrangements, including public-private mechanisms, undertaken in the efforts to enhance cooperation among developing countries, including, inter alia, in the areas of eradication of poverty and hunger, gender equality, the empowerment of women, access to information and communications technologies, science and technology, environment, culture, health, education and human development;

14. *Requests* the United Nations development system to further assess, within the report of the Secretary-General, progress made in its support, particularly with regard to the provision of adequate resources and the mobilization of technical and financial resources for South-South cooperation, as well as mainstreaming South-South cooperation in the work of the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies in the field;

15. *Also requests* the United Nations development system to continue improving coordination among its agencies in order to enhance its support to South-South and triangular cooperation and monitor progress at the global and regional levels and to continue evaluating the support of the United Nations development system for those activities;

16. *Further requests* the United Nations development system to accord a high priority to facilitating programmes and projects of South-South and triangular cooperation and to assist countries of the South, upon their request, in implementing them to ensure that sustainability is a key component of those projects;

17. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize adequate resources for enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this context invites all countries in a position to do so to contribute in support of such cooperation to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and also to the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, in accordance with its resolution 57/263 of 20 December 2002, and to support other initiatives for all developing countries, including technology transfers among developing countries;

18. *Also recognizes* that South-South and triangular cooperation are mutually supportive in terms of both technical and financial assistance, emphasizes in this regard the importance of further invigorating South-South cooperation, and invites all Member States to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation, focusing on shared development priorities with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in governments, civil society and the private sector;

19. *Invites* the regional commissions, where relevant, to further harness the knowledge network, partnerships, technical and research capacity in support of an enhanced subregional, regional and interregional South-South cooperation and to use the meetings of the regional coordination mechanism, as appropriate, as a tool

for advancing system-wide cooperation and coordination in support of South-South cooperation at the regional level;

20. *Requests* all Member States and the United Nations development system to foster complementarities among North-South and South-South and triangular cooperation through greater evidence-based policy dialogue on strategic cross-cutting issues, in particular for the application of science, technology and innovation and the integration of a gender perspective into the pursuit of sustainable development;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Operational activities for development", the sub-item entitled "South-South cooperation for development", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation, focusing on how the United Nations development system can improve its support to South-South cooperation and the implementation of the present resolution.

*71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013*



General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 February 2014Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 25

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

*[on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/444)]***68/231. International Year of Pulses, 2016***The General Assembly,*

Noting that pulses are annual leguminous crops yielding between 1 and 12 grains or seeds of variable size, shape and colour within a pod, used for both food and feed, and that the term “pulses” is limited to crops harvested solely for dry grain, thereby excluding crops harvested green for food, which are classified as vegetable crops, as well as those crops used mainly for oil extraction and leguminous crops that are used exclusively for sowing purposes,¹

Noting also that pulse crops such as lentils, beans, peas and chickpeas are a critical source of plant-based proteins and amino acids for people around the globe, as well as a source of plant-based protein for animals,

Recalling that the World Food Programme and other food aid initiatives use pulses as a critical part of the general food basket,

Desiring to focus attention on the role that pulses play as part of sustainable food production aimed towards food security and nutrition,

Recognizing that pulses are leguminous plants that have nitrogen-fixing properties which can contribute to increasing soil fertility and have a positive impact on the environment,

Recognizing also that health organizations around the world recommend eating pulses as part of a healthy diet to address obesity, as well as to prevent and help manage chronic diseases such as diabetes, coronary conditions and cancer,

Believing that such a celebration would create a unique opportunity to encourage connections throughout the food chain that would better utilize pulse-based proteins, further global production of pulses, better utilize crop rotations and address the challenges in the trade of pulses,

¹ Based on the definition of “pulses and derived products” of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.



Affirming the need to heighten public awareness of the nutritional benefits of pulses and to further sustainable agriculture,

Reaffirming that, pursuant to paragraphs 13 and 14 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980, a year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Welcoming resolution 6/2013 of 22 June 2013 of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to declare 2016 the International Year of Pulses;
2. *Reaffirms* Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 on international years and anniversaries and General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years;
3. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, mindful of provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to facilitate the implementation of the Year in collaboration with Governments, relevant organizations, non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a focused and concise report, bearing in mind paragraphs 23 to 27 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, on activities resulting from the implementation of the present resolution, which elaborates on, inter alia, the evaluation of the Year;
5. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to keep the General Assembly informed of progress in this regard;
6. *Stresses* that the costs of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution above and beyond activities currently within the mandate of the lead agency should be met through voluntary contributions, including from the private sector;
7. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to make voluntary contributions and to provide other forms of support to the Year.

71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013



General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 February 2014Sixty-eighth session
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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

*[on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/444)]***68/232. World Soil Day and International Year of Soils***The General Assembly,*

Reaffirming General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of its annex on the agreed criteria for their proclamation, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, stating that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Noting that soils constitute the foundation for agricultural development, essential ecosystem functions and food security and hence are key to sustaining life on Earth,

Recognizing that the sustainability of soils is key to addressing the pressures of a growing population and that recognition, advocacy and support for promoting sustainable management of soils can contribute to healthy soils and thus to a food-secure world and to stable and sustainably used ecosystems,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,¹ Agenda 21,² the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,³ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,⁴ the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)⁵ and

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

³ Resolution S-19/2, annex.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁵ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.



the commitments made therein and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",⁶

Recognizing the economic and social significance of good land management, including soil, particularly its contribution to economic growth, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and food security, eradicating poverty, women's empowerment, addressing climate change and improving water availability, and stressing that desertification, land degradation and drought are challenges of a global dimension and that they continue to pose serious challenges to the sustainable development of all countries, in particular developing countries,

Recognizing also the urgent need, at all levels, to raise awareness and to promote sustainability of the limited soil resources, using the best available scientific information and building on all dimensions of sustainable development,

Noting that World Soil Day and the International Year of Soils can contribute to raising awareness of desertification, land degradation and drought, in line with the objective of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,⁷

Recognizing that, for these reasons, an international year and world day on the same issue on soil could exceptionally be proclaimed at the same time without constituting a precedent,

Recalling resolutions 4/2013 and 5/2013 adopted on 22 June 2013 by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its thirty-eighth session,⁸

1. *Decides* to designate 5 December as World Soil Day and to declare 2015 the International Year of Soils;
2. *Invites* all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe the Day and the Year, as appropriate;
3. *Invites* Governments, relevant regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to make voluntary contributions for the observance of the Day and the Year;
4. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, and within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership, to facilitate the implementation of the Day and the Year, in collaboration with Governments, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa⁷ and other relevant regional and international organizations, civil society and the general public, and also invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to keep the General Assembly

⁶ Resolution 66/288, annex.

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

⁸ See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Conference of FAO, Thirty-eighth Session, Rome, 15–22 June 2013* (C 2013/REP).

informed of the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including on the evaluation of the Day and the Year;

5. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions, subject to the availability and provision of voluntary contributions;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States in order to encourage them to carry out activities to commemorate World Soil Day and the International Year of Soils.

*71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013*



General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 February 2014Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 25

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

*[on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/444)]***68/233. Agriculture development, food security and nutrition***The General Assembly,**Recalling its resolutions 65/178 of 20 December 2010, 66/220 of 22 December 2011 and 67/228 of 21 December 2012,**Recalling also the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security,¹ particularly the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security,**Recalling further the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,² Agenda 21,³ the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,⁴ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁵ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),⁶ the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,⁷ the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁸ the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,⁹ the outcome document of the 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,¹⁰ the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries*¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.² *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annex I.³ *Ibid.*, annex II.⁴ Resolution S-19/2, annex.⁵ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution I, annex.⁶ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.⁷ *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution I, annex.⁸ Resolution 60/I.⁹ Resolution 63/239, annex.¹⁰ Resolution 65/I.

for the Decade 2011–2020¹¹ and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013,¹²

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,¹³

Noting the processes agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which are now under way, in particular the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, as well as the process to develop options for a technology facilitation mechanism,

Recalling its resolutions 66/221 of 22 December 2011 on the International Year of Quinoa, 2013, and 66/222 of 22 December 2011 on the International Year of Family Farming, 2014,

Expressing concern that the multiple and complex causes of the food crises that occur in different regions of the world, affecting developing countries, especially net food importers, and their consequences for food security and nutrition require a comprehensive and coordinated response in the short, medium and long term by national Governments, civil society and the international community, reiterating that the root causes of food insecurity and undernutrition are poverty and inequity, and remaining concerned that excessively volatile food prices pose a serious challenge to the fight against poverty and hunger and to the efforts of developing countries to attain food security and improved nutrition and to achieve the objective of reducing by half the proportion of undernourished people no later than 2015, as well as other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit, the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later,¹⁴ including the goal of achieving food security for all through an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries, with an immediate view to reducing by half the proportion of undernourished people no later than 2015, as well as the commitment to achieving the goals set out in paragraph 19 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,¹⁵

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by relevant international bodies and organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme, on agricultural development and on enhancing food security and improving nutrition outcomes,

Welcoming national, regional and international initiatives and commitments aimed at improving agriculture development, food security and nutrition,

¹¹ Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

¹² Resolution 68/6.

¹³ Resolution 66/288, annex.

¹⁴ A/57/499, annex.

¹⁵ Resolution 55/2.

Recalling the commitments made to achieve global food security, to reduce undernutrition and to provide adequate and predictable resources through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the financial and policy commitments set out in the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, and acknowledging the progress made in implementing the commitments under the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in support of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme,

Recalling also the adoption on 10 March 2010 of the Abuja Declaration on Development of Agribusiness and Agro-industries in Africa by the High-level Conference on the Development of Agribusiness and Agro-industries in Africa, endorsed by the Executive Council of the African Union at its eighteenth ordinary session, in which a call was made for, inter alia, renewed commitment to increasing allocations in national budgets to the agricultural sector and for the adoption of programmes to accelerate the development of value chains for strategic food commodities, build competitive food supply systems and reduce reliance on food imports,

Reaffirming that agriculture remains a fundamental and key sector for developing countries, and noting the importance of working towards eliminating all forms of protectionism and the commitments to comprehensive negotiations aimed at substantial improvement in market access, substantial reduction in trade-distorting national support and the parallel elimination of all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect as provided in the mandate from the Doha Work Programme,¹⁶ the framework adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization on 1 August 2004 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005,

Reaffirming also the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities, and underlining the need to make special efforts to meet the nutritional needs, especially of women, children, older persons, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, as well as those living in vulnerable situations,

Stressing the importance of the preservation and sustainable use of the natural resource base for food security and nutrition, including, inter alia, through the sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity,

Remaining deeply concerned that, according to the most recent estimates of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 842 million people, or one in eight people in the world, suffer from chronic hunger and that 98 per cent of all hungry people live in developing countries, noting with concern that this number remains particularly high, and noting also that stunting is an important challenge to be addressed by Member States,

Remaining deeply concerned also about the continuing food insecurity and undernutrition being faced by millions of people in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel,

¹⁶ See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

Reiterating the urgent need for action to address the adverse effects of climate change on food security, as well as the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition,

Acknowledging that food losses and waste, estimated at 1.3 billion tons annually, occur in lower- and higher-income countries at all stages of the food supply chain, as well as the consumption stage, and recognizing the need to take urgent measures to reduce pre- and post-harvest losses and waste of food,

Reiterating the importance of empowering rural women as critical agents for enhancing agricultural and rural development, food security and improved nutrition outcomes,

Recognizing that farmers, including small-scale farmers and fisherfolk, pastoralists and foresters, can make important contributions to sustainable development through production activities that are environmentally sound, enhance food security and nutrition outcomes, improve the livelihoods of the poor and invigorate production and sustained economic growth,

Recognizing also the importance of smallholder and family farmers, including women, cooperatives, indigenous peoples and local communities in developing countries, and their knowledge and practices, in the conservation and sustainable use of traditional crops and biodiversity, as well as livestock management, which play a positive role in contributing to the achievement of food security and improved nutrition outcomes, as well as in the implementation of development goals in such fields as employment policy, social integration, regional and rural development, agriculture and environmental protection,

Welcoming the outcome of the thirty-eighth session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, held in Rome from 15 to 22 June 2013,¹⁷ in particular the decision to modify the Organization's first global goal from reducing to eradicating hunger,

Highlighting the importance of the five strategic objectives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Welcoming the outcome of the fortieth session of the Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome from 7 to 11 October 2013,

Recognizing the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security¹⁸ by the Committee on World Food Security in 2012,

Recognizing also the ongoing inclusive consultative process within the Committee on World Food Security to develop voluntary and non-binding principles for responsible agricultural investments intended for all stakeholders that are involved in, benefit from or are affected by those principles,

Noting with appreciation the progress made in the consultative process, based on a twin-track approach, at the Committee on World Food Security to develop a programme of action for addressing food insecurity in protracted crises at the global, regional and national levels and for advancing greater understanding of the

¹⁷ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2013/REP.

¹⁸ Ibid., document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

multidimensional causes of protracted crises through sharing effective analytical tools to identify the root causes of food insecurity in such crises.

Taking note of the reports of the High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security on biofuels and food security and on investing in smallholder agriculture for food security,

Taking note also of the results of the global thematic consultation on hunger, food security and nutrition, jointly led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme, and presented at the global consultation in Madrid in April 2013,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁹
2. *Reiterates* the need to adequately and urgently address agriculture development, food security and nutrition in the context of national, regional and international development policies, taking into account the importance of enhancing synergies between sustainable agriculture practices, biodiversity, food security, nutrition and development policies;
3. *Also reiterates* the importance of developing countries' determining their own food security strategies, that improving food security and nutrition is a global challenge and a national policy responsibility and that any plans for addressing this challenge in the context of eradicating poverty must be nationally articulated, designed, owned, led and built in consultation with all key stakeholders at the national level, as appropriate, and urges Member States, especially those affected, to make food security and nutrition a high priority and to reflect this in their national programmes and budgets;
4. *Calls upon* the international community to support Africa in the implementation of the various programmes under the New Partnership for Africa's Development,²⁰ especially the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;
5. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge, and the aim of a world free from hunger, and takes note of the progress made in improving cooperation, coordination and coherence by all stakeholders to overcome the challenges of hunger and malnutrition;
6. *Also welcomes* the six global targets set by the World Health Assembly to address global malnutrition;
7. *Takes note* of the Global Nutrition for Growth Compact, signed by more than 100 countries, companies and civil society organizations, to reduce the number of stunted children by 20 million by 2020 and the financial commitments made to support this goal;
8. *Also takes note* of the report of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on its thirty-eighth session,¹⁷ which highlights, inter alia, the importance of the development of measures to protect Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems;
9. *Welcomes* the increased political commitment by Member States to tackle hunger and undernutrition, in this regard welcomes the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)

¹⁹ A/68/311.

²⁰ A/57/304, annex.

Movement, and encourages Member States to engage in the SUN Movement at the global and country levels to further reduce global hunger and undernutrition, in particular in women, especially pregnant and lactating women, and children under age 2;

10. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen national information systems, as appropriate, in addressing the challenges of malnutrition and in assessing progress in order to stimulate coordinated and informed action at national, regional and global levels;

11. *Welcomes* the activities of the International Year of Quinoa, 2013, which have focused attention on the important role of quinoa, its biodiversity and nutritional value, as a way of promoting the traditional knowledge of the Andean and other indigenous peoples, contributing to the achievement of food security, improved nutrition and poverty eradication, raising awareness of their contribution to social, economic and environmental development and sharing good practices in the implementation of the International Year;

12. *Stresses* the need to address the root causes of excessive food price volatility, including its structural causes, at all levels, and the need to manage the risks linked to excessively volatile prices in agriculture commodities and their consequences for global food security and nutrition, as well as for smallholder farmers and poor urban dwellers;

13. *Also stresses* the need to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity globally, noting the diversity of agricultural conditions and systems, including through improving the functioning of markets and trading systems and strengthening international cooperation, particularly for developing countries, and by increasing public and private investment in sustainable agriculture, land management and rural development, and notes the benefit of such public and private investment and engagement to local smallholders with regard to promoting food security and improving nutrition outcomes;

14. *Encourages* all stakeholders to take part in the inclusive consultation and negotiation processes within the Committee on World Food Security for the development and broader ownership of principles for responsible agricultural investment that enhances food security and nutrition, which are to be submitted for endorsement by the Committee on World Food Security at its forty-first session in October 2014, taking into account existing frameworks, such as the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Bank;

15. *Recognizes* the need to increase the resilience of food and agricultural production to climate change, and encourages efforts at all levels to support climate-sensitive agricultural practices, including agroforestry, conservation agriculture, water management schemes, drought- and flood-resistant seeds and sustainable livestock management, including measures to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable groups and food systems, which can also have a wider positive impact, emphasizing adaptation to climate change as a major concern and objective for all farmers and food producers, especially small-scale producers;

16. *Reaffirms* the necessity to promote, enhance and support more sustainable agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, that improves food security, eradicates hunger and is economically

viable, while conserving land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, biodiversity and ecosystems and enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters, and further recognizes the need to maintain natural ecological processes that support food production systems;

17. *Stresses* the need to enhance sustainable livestock production systems, including through improving pasture land and irrigation schemes, in line with national policies, legislation, rules and regulations, enhanced sustainable water management systems and efforts to eradicate and prevent the spread of animal diseases, recognizing that the livelihoods of farmers, including pastoralists, and the health of livestock are intertwined;

18. *Also stresses* the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for food security and nutrition and in providing for the livelihoods of millions of people;

19. *Reaffirms* the need to strive for a comprehensive twin-track approach to food security and nutrition that consists of direct action to immediately tackle hunger for the most vulnerable and medium- and long-term sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition, and rural development programmes to eliminate the root causes of hunger and poverty, including through the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security;

20. *Encourages* efforts at all levels to establish and strengthen social protection measures and programmes, including national safety nets and protection programmes for the needy and vulnerable, such as food and cash-for-work, cash transfer and voucher programmes, school feeding programmes and mother-and-child nutrition programmes, and in this regard underlines the importance of increasing investment, capacity-building and systems development;

21. *Reaffirms* the need to promote a significant expansion of research on food, nutrition and agriculture, extension services, training and education, and of their funding, from all sources, to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability in order to strengthen agriculture as a key sector to promote development and to build up resilience to support better recovery from crisis and shock, including by strengthening the work of the reformed Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research so as to enhance its development impact, supporting national research systems, public universities and research institutions and promoting technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, the voluntary sharing of knowledge and practices and research to adapt to and mitigate climate change and improve equitable access to research results and technologies on mutually agreed terms at the national, regional and international levels, while giving due consideration to the preservation of genetic resources;

22. *Calls for* closing the gender gap in access to productive resources in agriculture, noting with concern that the gender gap persists for many assets, inputs and services, and stresses the need to invest in and strengthen efforts to empower women, in particular rural women, as well as to address their own food and nutritional needs and those of their families, and to promote adequate standards of living for them, as well as decent conditions for work and access to local, regional and global markets;

23. *Invites* Governments and international organizations, in collaboration with cooperatives and cooperative organizations, to promote, as appropriate, the growth of agricultural cooperatives and farmers' networks by providing easy access to affordable finance, promoting the adoption of sustainable production techniques

and investment in rural infrastructure and irrigation and strengthening marketing mechanisms and support for the participation of women in economic activities;

24. *Remains deeply concerned* about the recurring food insecurity and undernutrition in different regions of the world and their ongoing negative impact on health and nutrition, especially in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, and in this regard underlines the urgent need for joint efforts at all levels to respond to the situation in a coherent and effective manner;

25. *Welcomes* the launch of the Regional Road Map under the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative, Sahel, and emphasizes the need to improve the synergy, coherence and effectiveness of resilience initiatives in the region, including the need to link emergency and relief actions and longer-term strategies and programmes aimed at addressing the root causes of food crises, to build resilience among vulnerable populations in the Sahel;

26. *Notes* the challenges faced by indigenous peoples in the context of food security and nutrition, and in this regard calls upon States to take special actions to combat the root causes of the disproportionately high level of hunger and malnutrition among indigenous peoples;

27. *Recognizes* the role of indigenous peoples and small farmers and their traditional seed supply systems in the conservation of biodiversity and food security;

28. *Also recognizes* the contribution made thus far by early warning systems, and underlines that the reliability and timeliness of such systems should be strengthened at the national, regional and international levels, with a focus on countries that are particularly vulnerable to price shocks and food emergencies;

29. *Further recognizes* the importance of timely, accurate and transparent information in helping to address excessive food price volatility, notes global and regional initiatives, including the Agricultural Market Information System and its Rapid Response Forum, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Food Security Information System of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Asia-Pacific Information Platform on Food Security, and urges international organizations, private sector actors and Governments to participate and ensure the public dissemination of timely and quality food market information products;

30. *Recognizes* the importance of concrete initiatives aimed at improving protection for the most vulnerable against excessive price volatility through risk management strategies, tools and instruments, such as the pilot project led by the Economic Community of West African States for a targeted regional emergency humanitarian food reserve;

31. *Emphasizes* the need to revitalize the agriculture and rural development sectors, notably in developing countries, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner, and underlines the importance of taking the necessary actions to better address the needs of rural communities through, inter alia, enhancing access by agricultural producers, in particular small producers, women, indigenous peoples and people living in vulnerable situations, to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health care, social services, education, training, knowledge and appropriate and affordable technologies, including for efficient irrigation, reuse of treated wastewater and water harvesting and storage;

32. *Urges* Member States and international organizations to pursue policies and strategies that improve the functioning of national, regional and international markets and ensure equitable access for all to those markets, especially smallholder and women farmers in developing countries, notes the importance of non-trade-distorting special measures that are consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization aimed at creating incentives for smallholder farmers in developing countries to enable them to increase their productivity and to compete on a more equal footing in world food markets, and urges Member States to refrain from taking measures that are inconsistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization and that have adverse impacts on global, regional and national food security;

33. *Stresses* that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system will promote agriculture and rural development in developing countries and contribute to world food security, and urges national, regional and international strategies to promote the participation of farmers, especially smallholder farmers, including women, in community, national, regional and international markets;

34. *Welcomes* the convening of the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, in Bali, Indonesia, in the first week of December 2013;

35. *Stresses* the need to remove food export restrictions or extraordinary taxes on food purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by the World Food Programme, and not to impose them in the future;

36. *Also stresses* the need to continue to strengthen cooperation among the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, the regional commissions and all other relevant entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and international trade and economic institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates, in order to increase their effectiveness, as well as to strengthen cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the public and private sectors in promoting and strengthening efforts towards sustainable agriculture development, food security and nutrition;

37. *Further stresses* the need to significantly reduce post-harvest and other food losses and waste throughout the food supply chain through, inter alia, increased promotion of appropriate harvesting practices, agro-food processing, appropriate facilities for the storage and packaging of food and encouraging sustainable consumption patterns;

38. *Recognizes* the important role and inclusive nature of the Committee on World Food Security as a key organ in addressing the issue of global food security and nutrition;

39. *Encourages* international, regional and national efforts to strengthen the productive capacity of developing countries, in particular their small-scale producers, by, inter alia, improving the proper functioning of markets, storage, rural infrastructure, research and pre-harvest and post-harvest practices, in order to enhance the production, productivity and nutritional quality of food crops and promote sustainable practices in pre-harvest and post-harvest agricultural activities;

40. *Also encourages* countries to give due consideration to the dissemination, promotion and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National

Food Security,¹⁸ as endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security on 11 May 2012;

41. *Looks forward* to the implementation of the International Year of Family Farming, 2014, recognizes the important contribution that family farming and smallholder farming can play in providing food security, reducing malnutrition and eradicating poverty in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, stresses the importance of development strategies for family farming and smallholder farming, as appropriate, and invites Member States, United Nations agencies, farmers' organizations and other partners to join efforts to successfully observe the International Year;

42. *Reaffirms* the commitments to making every effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in support of developing countries, in particular those countries that are lagging most behind and those Goals that are most off track, thus improving the lives of the poorest people;

43. *Encourages* Member States and all stakeholders to give appropriate consideration to agriculture development, food security and nutrition in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on developments related to issues highlighted in the present resolution;

45. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Agriculture development, food security and nutrition".

71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013



General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 February 2014Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 26

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

*[on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/445)]***68/234. Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 55/215 of 21 December 2000, 56/76 of 11 December 2001, 58/129 of 19 December 2003, 60/215 of 22 December 2005, 62/211 of 19 December 2007, 64/223 of 21 December 2009 and 66/223 of 22 December 2011,

Recalling also the outcome documents of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",¹ and of the special event of the President of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013,²

Recalling further the objectives formulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,³ notably the Millennium Development Goals, and the reaffirmation they received in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁴ and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in 2010,⁵ particularly in regard to developing partnerships through the provision of greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general so as to enable them to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty,

Underlining the fact that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, including the private sector, shall serve the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and shall be undertaken in

¹ Resolution 66/288, annex.

² Resolution 68/6.

³ Resolution 55/2.

⁴ Resolution 60/1.

⁵ Resolution 65/1.



a manner that maintains and promotes the integrity, impartiality and independence of the Organization,

Welcoming the contribution of all relevant partners, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations, philanthropic organizations and civil society, which respect and support, as appropriate, the core values and principles of the United Nations, to the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, as well as the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, can contribute to addressing the obstacles confronted by developing countries through responsible business practices, such as respecting the principles of the United Nations Global Compact and taking action, including by mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustainable development, and to realizing the internationally agreed development goals in developing countries,

Welcoming the efforts and encouraging further efforts by all relevant partners, including the private sector, to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process and to take into account not only the economic and financial but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of their undertakings, and, in general, towards implementing corporate social and environmental responsibility, that is, bringing such values and responsibilities to bear on their conduct and policies premised on profit incentives, in conformity with national laws and regulations,

Recalling that the 2005 World Summit welcomed the positive contributions of the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, foundations and academia, in the promotion and implementation of development and human rights programmes, and recalling also that the 2005 World Summit resolved to enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development, and encouraged public-private partnerships in a wide range of areas, with the aim of eradicating poverty and promoting full employment and social integration,

Recalling also the recommendation made by the Secretary-General in his report to the Human Rights Council⁶ that the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector be updated to ensure their full alignment with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,

Recalling further that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, acknowledged the roles and contributions of civil society, the scientific and technological community and non-governmental organizations, as well as other relevant international organizations, including international financial institutions and multilateral development banks, in advancing sustainable development,

Recalling that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development also acknowledged that the implementation of sustainable development would depend on the active engagement of both the public and private sectors, and

⁶ A/HRC/21/21 and Corr.1.

recognizing that the active participation of the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development,

Recalling also that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development supported national regulatory and policy frameworks that enable business and industry to advance sustainable development initiatives, including the important tool of public-private partnerships,

Recognizing the contributions of all relevant partners, including the private sector, in fostering stability and supporting recovery by creating job opportunities, advancing economic development, as well as infrastructure development, and, as appropriate, contributing to trust, reconciliation and security,

Noting that the financial and economic crisis, inter alia, has demonstrated the need for values and principles in business, including for sustainable business practices, social protection floors and the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all,

Reaffirming the principles of sustainable development, and underlining the need for a global consensus on the key values and principles that will promote sustainable, fair, equitable and sustained economic development, and that corporate social and environmental responsibility are important elements of such a consensus,

Recognizing that a socially responsible private sector can contribute to the promotion of children's rights and education through relevant initiatives such as the Children's Rights and Business Principles and the Framework for Business Engagement in Education,

Recognizing also the progress achieved in the work of the United Nations on partnerships, notably in the framework of various United Nations organizations, agencies, funds, programmes, task forces, commissions and initiatives, and noting the establishment of partnerships at the field level entered into by various United Nations agencies, non-public partners and Member States, as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships,

Recognizing further the unique position of the United Nations as a builder of bridges among Member States and all stakeholders, and stressing that the inputs from other stakeholders should be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

Recognizing the vital role that the United Nations Global Compact Office continues to play with regard to strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to partner strategically with the private sector, in accordance with its mandate from the General Assembly, to advance United Nations values and responsible business practices within the United Nations system and among the global business community,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;⁷
2. *Stresses* that partnerships are voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits;

⁷ A/68/326.

3. *Also stresses* the importance of the contribution of voluntary partnerships to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, while reiterating that they are a complement to, but not intended to substitute for, the commitment made by Governments with a view to achieving those goals;

4. *Further stresses* that partnerships should be consistent with national laws and national development strategies and plans, as well as the priorities of countries where they are implemented, bearing in mind the relevant guidance provided by Governments;

5. *Emphasizes* the vital role played by Governments in promoting responsible business practices, including providing and ensuring enforcement of the necessary legal and regulatory frameworks in accordance with national legislation and development priorities, and invites them to continue to provide support to United Nations efforts to engage with the private sector, as appropriate;

6. *Recognizes* the vital role that the private sector plays in development, including through engaging in various partnership models and by generating decent employment and investment, giving access to and developing new technologies, offering technical vocational training activities and stimulating sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, with due consideration for non-discrimination, gender equality and women's empowerment, while bearing in mind the need to ensure that their activities conform fully with the principle of national ownership of development strategies;

7. *Also recognizes* the importance of giving due consideration to the various contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to the intergovernmental process of elaborating the post-2015 development agenda, and in this regard takes note of the important role that the Global Compact Local Networks have played in gathering input from businesses on a post-2015 development framework and promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development through, inter alia, the exercise of corporate social responsibility;

8. *Welcomes* the intention of the Secretary-General to improve collaboration of the United Nations with all relevant partners, including the private sector, and to strengthen the capacities of the United Nations system, with a view to enhancing the results achieved through partnerships, and acknowledges the importance of continued consultations with Member States;

9. *Also welcomes* the commitment of the Secretary-General to continuing to retain the integrity and unique role of the United Nations Global Compact;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the initiatives of the Secretary-General, including the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, the Every Woman, Every Child initiative, the Global Education First Initiative, the Zero Hunger Challenge initiative and the Global Pulse initiative;

11. *Invites* the United Nations system, when considering partnerships, to seek to engage in a more coherent manner with private sector entities, including small and medium-sized enterprises, that support the core values of the United Nations, as reflected in the Charter and other relevant conventions and treaties, and that commit to the principles of the United Nations Global Compact by translating them into operational corporate policies, codes of conduct and management, monitoring and reporting systems;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to develop, for those partnerships in which it participates, a common and systemic approach which places greater emphasis on transparency, coherence, impact, accountability and due diligence, without imposing undue rigidity in partnership agreements;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in this regard, in collaboration with funds and programmes, specialized agencies and other relevant United Nations entities and mechanisms, as appropriate, to:

(a) Improve the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector, including from a gender perspective;

(b) Disclose the partners, contributions and matching funds for all relevant partnerships, including at the country level;

(c) Strengthen due diligence measures that can safeguard the reputation of the Organization and ensure confidence-building;

(d) Ensure that these elements are coherently reflected in relevant system-wide reports;

14. *Underlines*, in this context, the importance of integrity measures as taken and advocated by the United Nations Global Compact;

15. *Requests* the United Nations Global Compact to promote the Women's Empowerment Principles and to encourage the Global Compact Local Networks to create awareness of the many ways in which business can promote gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and community;

16. *Acknowledges* the importance of corporate sustainability reporting, encourages companies, where appropriate, especially publicly listed and large companies, to consider integrating sustainability information into their reporting cycle, encourages industry, interested Governments and relevant stakeholders, with the support of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to develop models for best practice and to facilitate action for the integration of sustainability reporting, taking into account experiences from already existing frameworks and paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries, including for capacity-building, and welcomes in this context the collaboration of the United Nations Global Compact with the Global Reporting Initiative and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote effective implementation of the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector;

18. *Encourages* the international community to strengthen global partnerships for the integration and implementation in partnerships of the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization and the call for action on youth employment, in accordance with national plans and priorities;

19. *Stresses* the importance of developing national strategies for the promotion of sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities through partnerships, and encourages Governments to create a climate that is conducive to increasing the number of women entrepreneurs and the size of their businesses;

20. *Encourages* the private sector and the Global Compact Local Networks to join the United Nations Global Compact "Business for Peace" platform and to seek to maximize the beneficial contributions to peace and development while

minimizing the risks of negative impacts on both business and society in conflict-affected countries;

21. *Takes note with appreciation* of the convening of the annual United Nations Private Sector Forum, which, in 2013, focused on unique opportunities and challenges in Africa;

22. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the introduction of the private sector track at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011;

23. *Further takes note with appreciation* of the Corporate Sustainability Forum, which was held during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

24. *Recognizes* the work of the Global Compact Local Networks, as well as the importance of cooperation between the United Nations system at the local level and the Global Compact Local Networks, to support, as appropriate and in a manner complementary to existing networks, the coordination and application of global partnerships locally;

25. *Also recognizes* that the Global Compact Local Networks provide an avenue for diffusing United Nations values and principles and facilitating partnerships with business on a broad scale;

26. *Acknowledges* the establishment of the United Nations private sector focal points network, promoting greater coherence and capacity-building within the Organization on activities involving business and disseminating innovations in engagement across the system, as well as the holding of annual meetings of United Nations system private sector focal points, which remain important forums for the exchange of best practices, lessons learned and innovations in partnerships with the private sector;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a concise report, in the most cost-efficient and effective manner, on the implementation of the present resolution and on specific progress, including from a gender perspective, on integrity measures, on transparency, on the strengthening of due diligence measures, on the improvement and implementation of the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector, on disclosure of partners, contributions and matching funds, including at the country level, and on the strengthening of the Global Compact Local Networks.

71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013



General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 February 2014Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 61

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

*[on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/446)]***68/235. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources***The General Assembly,**Recalling* its resolution 67/229 of 21 December 2012, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/8 of 19 July 2013,*Recalling also* its resolutions 58/292 of 6 May 2004 and 59/251 of 22 December 2004,*Reaffirming* the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources,*Guided by* the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,*Recalling* its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970,*Reaffirming* the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,¹ to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,*Recalling*, in this regard, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights² and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,² and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.² See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Recalling also the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,³ and recalling further its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Taking note of its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Expressing its concern about the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Expressing its grave concern about the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of agricultural land and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the uprooting of a vast number of fruit-bearing trees and the destruction of farms and greenhouses, and the grave environmental and economic impact in this regard,

Expressing its concern about the widespread destruction caused by Israel, the occupying Power, to vital infrastructure, including water pipelines and sewage networks, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip, which, inter alia, pollutes the environment and negatively affects the water supply and other natural resources of the Palestinian people, and stressing the urgency of the reconstruction and development of water infrastructure, including the project for the desalination facility for the Gaza Strip,

Taking note, in this regard, of the 2009 report by the United Nations Environment Programme regarding the grave environmental situation in the Gaza Strip, and of the 2012 report, "Gaza in 2020: A liveable place?", by the United Nations country team in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and stressing the need for follow-up to the recommendations contained therein,

Aware of the detrimental impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian and other Arab natural resources, especially as a result of the confiscation of land and the forced diversion of water resources, including the destruction of orchards and crops and the seizure of water wells by Israeli settlers, and of the dire socioeconomic consequences in this regard,

Taking note of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,⁴

Aware of the detrimental impact on Palestinian natural resources being caused by the unlawful construction of the wall by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and of its grave effect as well on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people,

Welcoming the resumption of negotiations within the Middle East peace process, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative⁵ and the Quartet performance-based road

³ See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1.

⁴ A/HRC/22/63.

⁵ A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,⁶ as endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003 and supported by the Council in its resolution 1850 (2008) of 16 December 2008, for the achievement of a final peace settlement on all tracks,

Stressing in this regard the need for respect for the obligation upon Israel under the road map to freeze settlement activity, including so-called "natural growth", and to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since March 2001,

Stressing also the need for respect and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling the need to end all acts of violence, including acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction,

Taking note of the report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, as transmitted by the Secretary-General,⁷

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources;
2. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;
3. *Recognizes* the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, damage, loss or depletion, or endangerment of their natural resources resulting from illegal measures taken by Israel, the occupying Power, and Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and expresses the hope that this issue will be dealt with within the framework of the final status negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides;
4. *Stresses* that the wall and settlements being constructed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, are contrary to international law and are seriously depriving the Palestinian people of their natural resources, and calls in this regard for full compliance with the legal obligations affirmed in the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice³ and in relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution ES-10/15;
5. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, with respect to the alteration of the character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;
6. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to bring a halt to all actions, including those perpetrated by Israeli settlers, harming the environment, including the dumping of all kinds of waste materials, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

⁶ S/2003/529, annex.

⁷ A/68/77-E/2013/13.

including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely water and land resources, and which pose an environmental, sanitation and health threat to the civilian populations;

7. *Further calls upon* Israel to cease its destruction of vital infrastructure, including water pipelines and sewage networks, which, inter alia, has a negative impact on the natural resources of the Palestinian people, and stresses the need to advance reconstruction and development projects in this regard, including in the Gaza Strip;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including with regard to the cumulative impact of the exploitation, damage and depletion by Israel of natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources".

71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013



General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 February 2014Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 174

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

*[on the report of the Second Committee (A/68.602)]***68/236. Amendments to the Charter of the United Nations University***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 2951 (XXVII) of 11 December 1972, by which it decided to establish the United Nations University, 3081 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, by which it adopted the Charter of the United Nations University, and 64/225 of 21 December 2009, by which it approved amendments to the Charter of the United Nations University,

Taking note of the decision taken by the Council of the United Nations University at its fifty-ninth session, held from 22 to 24 April 2013, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General, in accordance with article XII of the Charter of the United Nations University, to propose to the General Assembly, at its sixty-eighth session, amendments to article IV of the Charter of the United Nations University to reduce the number of appointed members of the Council from 24 to 12,

Taking note also of the decision on the proposal to amend the Charter of the United Nations University adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its 192nd session, held in Paris from 23 September to 11 October 2013,¹

Taking note further of the proposal of the Secretary-General to amend the Charter of the United Nations University in accordance with article XII thereof, made at the request of the Council of the United Nations University and after consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

I. *Approves* the following amendments to the Charter of the United Nations University:

(a) Article IV, paragraph 1, shall be amended to read as follows:

¹ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Decisions Adopted by the Executive Board at its One Hundred and Ninety-second Session, Paris, 23 September–11 October 2013* (192 EX/Decisions), decision 43.



"1. There shall be a Council of the University (hereinafter referred to as 'the Council'), to be established on a broad geographical basis with due regard to major academic, scientific, educational and cultural trends in the world, taking into account the various fields of study, with appropriate representation of young scholars. The Council shall have 12 members serving in their individual capacity, who shall be appointed jointly by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of UNESCO, in consultation with the agencies and programmes concerned, including the United Nations Institute for Training and Research* (hereinafter referred to as 'UNITAR'), and taking into account the views of appropriate representative bodies. The Rector shall be a member of the University Council."

* Established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1934 (XVIII).

(b) Article IV, paragraph 3, shall be amended to read as follows:

"3. The term of office shall be six years, provided that, of the members first appointed pursuant to paragraph 1 of this article, the terms of six shall expire at the end of three years and the terms of the remaining six at the end of six years. No appointed member of the Council may serve continuously for more than six years. The Council shall be consulted in regard to the replacement of retiring members."

2. *Decides* that these amendments shall enter into force upon the expiration of the present term of those appointed members currently serving on the Council of the United Nations University;

3. *Acknowledges* that the Council of the United Nations University shall continue to operate with the current appointed membership, and without the appointment of additional members, until the terms of the current appointed members expire;

4. *Also acknowledges* the intention of the Secretary-General to apply article IV, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations University, as amended, when he next appoints new members to the Council of the United Nations University.

71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013



General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 February 2014Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 67 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 23 December 2013

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/68/L.34)]

68/237. Proclamation of the International Decade for People of African Descent*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolution 52/111 of 12 December 1997, by which it decided to convene the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and its resolutions 56/266 of 27 March 2002, 57/195 of 18 December 2002, 58/160 of 22 December 2003, 59/177 of 20 December 2004 and 60/144 of 16 December 2005, which guided the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,¹

Reiterating that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies, and that any doctrine of racial superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous and must be rejected, together with theories that attempt to determine the existence of separate human races,

Acknowledging the efforts and initiatives undertaken by States to prohibit discrimination and segregation and to engender the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural as well as civil and political rights,

Emphasizing that, despite efforts in this regard, millions of human beings continue to be victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including their contemporary manifestations, some of which take violent forms,

Emphasizing also its resolution 64/169 of 18 December 2009, by which it proclaimed 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent,

Recalling its resolutions 3057 (XXVIII) of 2 November 1973, 38/14 of 22 November 1983 and 48/91 of 20 December 1993, by which it proclaimed the three Decades to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and conscious of the fact that their objectives are yet to be attained,

¹ See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.



Underlining its resolution 67/155 of 20 December 2012, by which it requested the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, relevant United Nations programmes and organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to launch an informal consultative preparatory process for the proclamation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, with the theme "People of African descent: recognition, justice and development", with a view to proclaiming the International Decade in 2013,

Recalling paragraph 61 of its resolution 66/144 of 19 December 2011, by which it encouraged the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent to develop a programme of action, including a theme, for adoption by the Human Rights Council, and in this regard taking note of Council resolution 21/33 of 28 September 2012,² in which the Council welcomed the draft programme of action for the Decade for People of African Descent³ and decided to transmit it to the General Assembly with a view to its adoption,

Taking note with appreciation of the work undertaken by the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent in producing a draft programme of action that is comprehensive and covers a wide range of areas that could serve as a broad framework for the programme of action for the International Decade for People of African Descent, and the report of the Secretary-General on how to make the International Decade effective,⁴

1. *Proclaims* the International Decade for People of African Descent, commencing on 1 January 2015 and ending on 31 December 2024, with the theme "People of African descent: recognition, justice and development", to be officially launched immediately following the general debate of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

2. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, through the facilitator, to continue consultations with States members of the General Assembly and other stakeholders, with a view to elaborating a programme for the implementation of the International Decade, with a draft programme developed by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action as its basis, to be finalized and adopted during the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly and not later than 30 June 2014;

3. *Calls for* the allocation of predictable funding from the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources of the United Nations for the effective implementation of the programme of action and activities under the International Decade.

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² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/67/53/Add.1)*, chap. II.

³ A/HRC/21/60/Add.2.

⁴ A/67/879.